



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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ICE TO REPATRIATE HONDURAN NATIONAL WANTED FOR DOUBLE MURDER IN HIS HOME COUNTRY

LOS ANGELES – A 28-year-old Honduran man who faces double murder charges in his native country is expected to be back in Honduras to face justice by week's end as a result of efforts by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Wilmer Contreras-Zuniga came into ICE custody yesterday after serving a 33-month sentence at the federal prison in Lompoc for re-entry after deportation. Contreras and his brother Jerlin are wanted in Honduras for the January 2002 killing of two of their brothers-in-law. The murder warrant was issued by Honduran authorities in March 2003.



Earlier today, ICE officials obtained travel documents for Contreras from the Honduran consulate here, paving the way for his return. Contreras will remain in ICE custody until his removal is carried out, likely later this week.

"ICE is working with law enforcement agencies here and around the globe to protect our communities from violent criminals," said Gloria Kee, field operations director for ICE's detention and removal program in Los Angeles. "This arrest should send a strong signal to fugitives that the world's borders will not serve as boundaries for the law."

The identification and removal of criminal aliens like Contreras is one of ICE's top enforcement priorities. Many of these criminal aliens are apprehended by the agency's fugitive operations teams. In the first quarter of this fiscal year (October 2004 through December 2004), ICE fugitive operations teams in Los Angeles arrested 661 immigration absconders, approximately 80 percent of whom were criminal aliens. Those figures represent a nearly 60 percent increase compared to the same three-month period last year.

#ICE #

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.